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NOTES OF A JUNE, RAMBLE.

My office duties prevent me, unfortunately, from going afield during almost the entire month of July in each year, and perhaps a few notes on my last ramble, 29th June, may interest the inexperienced, and indicate some of the insects to be found at this time. The special aim of this ramble was to visit a grove of hickories, *Carya amara*, and investigate the insects occurring in these trees, but I desired also to obtain Coleoptera and Hymenoptera, especially sawflies.

My outfit consisted of a flat beating-net constructed so as to be folded up snugly when not in use ; a sweeping-net on a folding pocket-ring ; a bottle containing coarse sawdust, with a morsel of cyanide for beetles ; a wide-mouthed bottle lined with blotting paper, and having some cyanide in a cavity in the cork, for Hymenoptera, Diptera ; a couple of boxes for larvæ, and last, but not least, a note-book and pencil. The day is favorable, the sun shining hotly, yet tempered by a slight breeze. My first capture is a half-grown *Cimbex* larva under an elm tree in the city, and in passing through the lumber yards I obtain *Buprestis cossularis* and *Dicerca tenebrosa*. Along the river are seen many Neuroptera, including some fine species of Phryganidæ and Perlidæ. On the sides of a railway embankment (I am now in the Province of Quebec) grow a variety of young trees and other plants. The willows are first tried and yield very abundantly, *Diachus cataris* and *auratus*. Less numerous are *Monachus saponatus*, *Anomoea laticlavia*, *Agrilus torpidus*? and *A. fulgens*. I am pleased to capture a fine pair of *Saperda mutica*, as I have only hitherto taken them once. Among other beetles are *Trichalophus alternatus*, *Rhynchites cyanellus* and *Chrysomela multipunctata*, with larvæ of the same. On some trees a sawfly larva, yellow, hairy, with

rows of black spots, is very abundant, and there are also larvæ of lepidoptera, including one of a *Catocala*. The raspberry bushes, which a few days ago were alive with bees and wasps, are now almost deserted, but the wilted tips of many of the young shoots show that some enemy has been at work. It is found that a foot or so below the top they have been neatly girdled by two rings about half an inch apart, and that between these rings has been inserted into the pith a long cylindrical egg, that of *Oberea bimaculata*. From a small balsam poplar is obtained *Saperda moesta*, and an examination discloses the larvæ of different sizes in gall-like swellings, about an inch or two apart, along the shoots which are not half an inch in diameter. Near the root, where the stem is somewhat stouter, is found a much larger borer, which is apparently that of some moth. The hickory grove is now reached, and the first tree yields a fine *Saperda discoidea*, a very rare beetle here. From other trees the following beetles are obtained: *Dorcaschema nigrum*, *Liopus alpha*, *Lepturges querci*, *Leptostylus macula*, *Hyperplatys aspersus*, *Anthaxia viridicornis*, *Agilus egenus*, *A. otiosus*, *A. bilineatus* and *Balaninus rectus*. Several tree-hoppers occur in various stages, including *Telamona unicolor* and *T. fasciata*. There are also some large flat half-grown bugs (yellow, with blackish markings,) one of which has killed a luna caterpillar about an inch long, and is sucking out its juices. The caterpillars of this moth are quite common, but generally smaller than the one mentioned, and a few larvæ of other moths are seen. Three specimens of the pretty little butterfly, *Thecla calanus*, are observed flitting about the trees, or settled upon the foliage. Space will not permit to mention the various galls, etc., which disfigure the leaves more or less. Scattered through the grove are a few oaks, some of which have the foliage noticeably disfigured by large globular woody galls placed upon the mid-rib of the leaf, which is much distorted and curled up. From these galls are just emerging small hymenopterous flies, with ample wings, of which I do not know the name. Some of the leaves are being devoured by brownish caterpillars, half an inch long, with a black head and a pair of black spines projected forward from one of the thoracic segments. They feed side by side in rows of five or six and eat the leaf from the tip downward. Upon these trees are found also the beetle *B. rectus*, which was upon the hickory, and which is remarkable for its extremely long and slender snout. Flying about through the grove are lovely butterflies, *Limenitis arthemis*, fresh evidently from chrysalis and almost persuading one to be a lepidopterist.

Descending now into a meadow, through which flows a sluggish brook, I fold up the beating-net and screw the sweeping-net into its handle, which hitherto has been only used to tap the branches with. The stream is bordered with clumps of alders, willows, etc., between which grow luxuriantly ferns and many herbaceous plants, with sedges and various grasses. Magnificent fritillaries are hovering about the blossoms of the milkweed, which are just beginning to open, while numbers of *Neonympha Boisduvali* flit about with a peculiar jerky flight. Beetles do not appear to be as common as they sometimes are here, but I take several specimens of *Scirtes orbiculatus*, three species of fireflies and several allied beetles, with several species belonging to the other families, as Coccinellidæ, etc. Three or four kinds of sawfly larvæ are found but none of the perfect insects are seen. Two, or perhaps three, species of Chrysops are unpleasantly numerous, but are not nearly so aggressive as I find them in a pine wood, through which I return. This wood rings with the shrill music of the cicada and is enlivened by many butterflies in the more open portions, where other trees and plants occur. My captures during the ramble are perhaps fifty species of beetles and a few Hymenoptera. This number is less than half of what I frequently obtain, but the value of collecting depends not so much upon the number of species taken, as upon the observations which are made upon the habits of the various species.

July 3rd, 1884.

OBITUARY.

It is with a feeling of sadness that we record the death of our esteemed friend and companion, Prof. Francis Gregory Sanborn, which occurred at the residence of a friend in Providence, June 5, 1884, by an overdose of chloral, taken to allay a nervous affection, from which he was a sufferer. He was born in Andover, Mass., Jan. 18, 1838. His father, Dr. Eastman Sanborn, was born in Sanbornton, N. H., and settled as surgeon dentist in Andover.

Francis was of slender health from infancy. From a diary kept by his mother it appears that when he was two weeks old his life was despaired of for many days. He was born a naturalist, and very early developed